

## Preface

Historically India has been a world leader in higher learning. Our universities like Nalanda and Takshashila were foremost learning centers of the world. The profound knowledge of these centres attracted scholars from across the world. After these seats of learning ceased to exist, great universities of the western world came into being, marking the shift in knowledge production and dissemination from the East to the West.

We need to restore our rightful place and make our universities and colleges producers of knowledge for the world. In this endeavour, the government is committed to ensuring that our higher education institutions achieve the highest levels of global excellence in teaching and research. To start with, it is proposed to provide an enabling regulatory architecture to ten public and private institutions each to emerge as world-class Teaching and Research Institution. They would be facilitated by giving autonomy on academic, administrative and financial matters. It will enable meritorious and talented students of India and abroad, irrespective of their financial status, to realize their dreams and enrol for getting highest quality knowledge, taught by renowned global knowledge providers.

The above initiative is the beginning of our journey to restore the original mandate of higher education regulators, as facilitators and guides, driven by norms of self-disclosure and transparency, instead of top-down command and control and micromanagement, in the quest to achieve world-class standards in all colleges and universities. This would enable our universities to become leading global canthers of knowledge production.

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**Policy on Establishment of World Class Institutions** : Pages 2 to 3.

**UGC (Declaration of Government Educational Institutions as World Class Institutions) Guidelines, 2016:** Pages 4 to 12.

**UGC (World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016:** Pages 13 to 29.

\* Comments/Views/Suggestions on **draft Guidelines and Regulations for establishment of World Class Institutions** can be sent on email [wci-mhrd@gov.in](mailto:wci-mhrd@gov.in) and in hard copies at R.N.405-C, Dept. Of Higher Education, Ministry of HRD, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi **on or before 28.10.2016.**

## **Policy on Establishment of World Class Institutions**

### **Need for Establishment of World Class Institutions:**

The Hon'ble Finance Minister in his budget speech 2016 announced the following:

*'It is our commitment to empower Higher Educational Institutions to help them become world class teaching and research institutions. An enabling regulatory architecture will be provided to ten public and ten private institutions to emerge as world-class Teaching and Research Institutions. This will enhance affordable access to high quality education for ordinary Indians. A detailed scheme will be formulated.'*

India, which contributes a significant share of students and faculty in the world's leading universities, does not itself have any representation among the top-tier of global universities. Whenever a reputed international ranking agency releases its ranking of educational institutions any year, the general reaction is one of dismay at Indian institutions not finding place in the list of top institutions of the world or even of Asia. There is a pressing need for the Government to provide a suitable environment to promote the growth of Indian higher educational institutions, as globally renowned centres of excellence.

### **Objectives:**

To establish ten World Class Institutions each in public and private sector in a reasonable time by providing an enabling regulatory environment that allow them to achieve the highest levels of global excellence in teaching and research.

### **Approach:**

In order to achieve the aforementioned objective, the following regulatory architecture are proposed by UGC:

- i. UGC (Declaration of Government Educational Institutions as World Class Institutions) Guidelines, 2016 which would be applicable to all government owned & controlled Higher Educational Institutions.
- ii. UGC (World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016 which would be applicable to privately owned & controlled Higher Educational Institutions.

These draft Guidelines & Regulations contain eligibility criteria, selection procedure, other Regulatory aspects, monitoring & evaluation, etc for World Class Institutions. These have been drafted considering the characteristics of a institutions which are world class which includes exceptionally high quality teaching and research standards preferably in multi-disciplinary areas; a significant proportion of international and meritorious students; a reasonably good proportion of qualified faculty from high-ranked universities worldwide;

transparent and need-blind system to ensure intake of meritorious students; adequate financial assistance to students; a healthy faculty student ratio; well-equipped facilities for teaching, research, administration and student-life; adequate infrastructure for operations and expansion; autonomous governance structures; financial soundness through either a large corpus fund or recourse to public funding, as the case may be and, teaching and research collaborations with reputed global universities.

The draft Guidelines & Regulations also provides for admission procedure, fixing appropriate fee structures pursuant to internal policies, appointment of faculty, collaboration with foreign higher educational institutions, and design and offer courses in existing programmes and new areas. Additionally, these institutions shall have complete financial autonomy to spend the resources raised and allocated.

The Regulation provides for setting up of an Empowered Experts Committee (EEC) by UGC with the approval of Government. The functions and composition of the EEC is defined in the Regulation which includes involvement in the process of selection and establishment of World Class Institutions. In particular, these would include scrutiny and appraisal of the proposals submitted, making recommendations, as well as monitoring and review of the implementation plans. The EEC is also empowered to evolve such other monitoring and review systems with the objective of guiding and supervising the growth of the Institution. The guideline also provides for financial assistance to Government Institutions selected as World Class Institutions.

**Steps involved in Establishment of World Class Institutions:**

The Guidelines and the Regulations shall be finalised after considering the views and suggestions through public consultations. The approval of Government shall be sought for entire scheme of World Class Institutions including the financial commitment. After obtaining the approval of the Government, the Guidelines and the Regulations shall be notified and expression of Interest shall be called for selection of world class institutions as per notified guidelines and the Regulations.

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**UGC (Declaration of Government Educational Institutions as World Class Institutions)  
Guidelines, 2016**

*(for providing regulatory structure for enabling higher educational institutions to become world class teaching & research institutions)*

**1. Introduction:**

There is a felt need to create a distinct category of deemed to be Universities, called World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities, which shall be regulated differently from other deemed to be universities so as to evolve into institutions of world class in a reasonable time period. This is in order to implement the commitment of the government announced by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his budget speech in 2016. As per the Budget announcement:

*'It is our commitment to empower Higher Educational Institutions to help them become world class teaching and research institutions. An enabling regulatory architecture will be provided to ten public and ten private institutions to emerge as world-class Teaching and Research Institutions. This will enhance affordable access to high quality education for ordinary Indians. A detailed scheme will be formulated.'*

**2. Objective:**

2.1 To provide an enabling regulatory architecture to ten public and ten private Higher Educational Institutions to emerge as world-class Teaching and Research Institutions.

**3. Application:**

3.1 The present guidelines shall apply to Government Institutions viz. Central Universities, Government owned and controlled Deemed to be Universities, Institutions of National Importance such as Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Information Technology, National Institutes of Technology and Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research, Government owned standalone Institutions working under individual MoAs, such as Indian Institutes of Management and State Universities set up under a law made by Legislative Assembly of a State (Collectively referred as Government World Class Institutions).

**4. Expectations from a Government World Class Institution:**

4.1 While a Government Institution declared as a World Class Institution is free to choose its path to become a World Class Institution, it should compulsorily satisfy the following criteria within a reasonable pre-determined time frame from the date of notification declaring it as a World Class Institution:

- i) It should preferably be multi-disciplinary and have both teaching and research focus of an exceptionally high quality.
- ii) Apart from the regular courses, it should also offer various inter-disciplinary courses, including in areas of emerging technology and interest as well as those of relevance to the development concerns of countries like India.

- iii) It should have a good proportion of foreign or foreign qualified faculty. Institutions which succeed in mobilizing a broadly diverse national and international academic staff are likely to maximise knowledge capacity.
- iv) There should be a reasonably good mix of domestic and foreign students.
- v) There should be a transparent merit based selection in admissions, so that the focus remains on getting meritorious students.
- vi) The admission process should be need-blind so that once a student gets admission purely on merit, such a meritorious student should not be turned away for lack of financial ability.
- vii) The faculty student ratio should not be less than 1:10 after three years of declaration as a World Class Institution.
- viii) There should be laboratory facilities that do cutting-edge scientific research for those Institutions engaged in scientific research. In case of humanities and social science and other interdisciplinary areas, the faculty should be engaged in research and field work in frontier areas using the latest methodologies.
- ix) The Institution should have a world-class library with subscriptions to reputed journals in the areas of its course offerings.
- x) It should have student amenities comparable with that of globally reputed institutions.
- xi) The Institution should have reasonably large owned campus with adequate space for expansion.
- xii) The Institution should strive to achieve social impact by engaging in applied research and innovation in issues of concern to developing societies.
- xiii) Governance structure of the Institution should be distinct from the governance structure of the organization sponsoring/funding the institution.
- xiv) It should be financially sound, either in terms of recourse to public funding.
- xv) The Institution should have teaching and research collaborations with a reasonable number of global universities figuring in the most reputed global rankings.
- xvi) The Institution should be known for promoting a culture where faculty are encouraged to publish regularly in peer-reviewed journals and engage academically with the issues of concern to the society. It should have a record of research publications at the mean rate of at least one per faculty member each year in reputed peer-reviewed international journals based on publication made by top 100 global Universities in these journals.
- xvii) It should have a student enrolment of at least twenty thousand students in a period of fifteen years.
- xviii) The Institution should be accredited by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) or an alternative version of NAAC which conforms to UGC (World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016 or its amendments and also be assessed by one reputed international accreditation

agency, one whose ratings are a credible and widely accepted global benchmark. The Institution may however appeal on accreditation of NAAC or alternative version of NAAC to the Empowered Experts Committee, whose decision shall be final.

- xix) It should come in top five hundred of any of the world renowned ranking frameworks (such as the Times Higher Education World University Rankings or QS or Shanghai's Jiao Tong University) in the first ten years of setting up or being declared as World Class Institution, and come in the top one hundred eventually over time.

4.2 The Institution giving an application to be declared as a World Class institution, should in its proposal mention the detailed and tangible action plan, milestones, and timelines by which it seeks to achieve each of parameters in Guideline 4.1 above, mentioning milestones to be achieved in first five years and over 15 years.

## **5. New Regulatory Structure for setting up World Class Institutions:**

5.1 As far as Government owned institutions are concerned, they will continue to function as per the existing regulatory provisions under which they have been created.

5.2 Thus, the Institutes of National Importance, created under Acts of Parliament, would continue to function under their existing Acts. However, within the ambit of the Act, they would be given additional flexibility as listed out in Guideline 6.1 hereinafter.

5.3 Similarly, State Public Universities set up under State Acts would continue to function under their respective Acts.

5.4 As far as deemed universities controlled by Government are concerned, they would also be given additional incentives given in these Guidelines, and the same would be provided for in the UGC Regulations to be framed for World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities.

5.5 Institutions which are also regulated by their Professional Regulatory Councils would continue to be regulated by the councils and no relaxation is proposed on rules and regulations laid down by these regulatory bodies.

## **6 Guidelines for Government owned Institutions:**

### **6.1 Additional Incentives Proposed:**

The Government owned Institutions including Government controlled Deemed to be Universities, which are declared World Class Institutions, would be allowed for the following, subject to the same being compliant to the rules and regulations of their Professional Regulatory Councils:

- a. The World Class Institutions would be free to admit additionally foreign students on merit subject to a maximum of thirty percent of the strength of admitted domestic students.
- b. The World Class Institutions would be free to fix and charge fees from foreign students without restriction.
- c. The World Class Institutions would have the freedom to determine the domestic student fees, subject to the condition that no student who gains admission should

be turned away for lack of finance. This should be accompanied with a credible programme of scholarships and loans to ensure that the needy are able to pursue higher studies without any financial problems.

- d. The Institutions would have the freedom to offer courses within a program as well as to offer degrees in newer areas, including inter-disciplinary ones, after approval of its Governing Council and broadly conforming to the minimum prevailing standards which shall be intimated to the Commission or Professional Regulatory Councils.
- e. The World Class Institutions will have the flexibility of course structure in terms of number of credit hours and years to take a degree, after approval of their Governing Council and broadly conforming to the minimum prevailing standards.
- f. The World Class Institutions shall have complete flexibility in fixing of curriculum and syllabus, with no UGC mandated curriculum structure.
- g. The World Class Institutions will have freedom to offer online courses as part of their programmes with the restriction that not more than thirty percent of the programme should be in online mode. However, this thirty percent restriction would not preclude the Institutions from offering certificate courses entirely through online mode.
- h. Institutions would have the freedom to recruit faculty from outside India subject to the limit of twenty five percent of its faculty strength.
- i. The World Class Institutions will be permitted to hire personnel from industry, etc, as faculty who, though being experts in their areas, may not have the requisite higher academic qualifications.
- j. Academic collaborations with foreign higher educational institutions would be exempt from government approvals, except with institutions from negative list of countries determined by Ministry of External Affairs/Ministry of Home Affairs.
- k. The World Class Institutions shall be free to enter into academic collaborations with other Institutions within the country.
- l. The World Class Institution will have complete financial autonomy to spend the resources raised and allocated, subject to general restrictions of the Statutes and GFR.

## **6.2 Financial Assistance:**

6.2.1 Financial Assistance would be provided to Government Institutions which have been declared World Class Institutions.

6.2.2 The assistance would be up to an amount of Rupees five hundred Crore to each Institution in a span of five years from 2016-17 to 2020-21.

6.2.3 The annual release would be dependent on the institution achieving the financial and physical outcomes laid down in its implementation plan.

6.2.4 However, if any Institution shows capacity to absorb the funds earlier and is able to give the expected outcomes, an accelerated pace of funding would also be allowed.

6.2.5 The funding under these guidelines would be in addition to the existing funding to which they are entitled to.

6.2.6 Apart from this, the Institution would have the full freedom to mobilize resources from the industry or alumni or other donors and utilize it in accordance with its implementation plan without having to seek any permission from any authority.

### **6.3 Eligibility criteria for Government owned and controlled Institutions to become World Class Institution:**

6.3.1 Total of ten Institutions under this category shall be selected to be declared as World Class Institutions.

6.3.2 These ten Institutions would be a mix of technical institutions, management and arts institutions and central universities.

6.3.3 These Institutions should figure in the top twenty five of the ranking in their category under the National Institution Ranking Framework released on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2016.

6.3.4 Institutions finding place in top five hundred of some of the internationally recognized ranking frameworks such as the Times Higher Education World University Rankings or QS or SJTU (Shanghai's Jiao Tong University) would also be eligible for inclusion in the programme.

### **6.4 Procedure of Selection of Government owned and controlled Institutions to become World class Institutions:**

#### **6.4.1 Inviting Application:**

6.4.1.1 Commission will call for applications, to be submitted to Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), from existing Government owned and controlled institutions, including Government owned and controlled Deemed to be Universities, desirous of being declared as a World Class Institution.

6.4.1.2 The advertisement would be issued both in print media and also would be put on the website of University Grants Commission (UGC) and Ministry of Human Resource Development. A minimum time of forty five days will be given for submitting applications from the date of the advertisement.

#### **6.4.2 Application:**

6.4.2.1 Applications in specified format shall be submitted to the Government along with processing fee of Rupees one crore by way of Demand Draft drawn in favour of The Secretary, University Grants Commission, Bahadurshah Zafar Marg, New Delhi.

6.4.2.1 The Institutions controlled by Central Government, the application shall be made by the Institution through their controlling Ministries / Departments.

6.4.2.2 In case of State Public Universities, the application shall be made by the Institution through the State Government.

6.4.2.3 The application will have two parts: a fifteen year strategic vision plan as well as a five year implementation plan. The former will be the long-term (fifteen years) strategic plan to meet the objectives and characteristics of a World Class Institution and will also contain the quantified milestones and timelines for the Institution to achieve world-class

repute as laid down in Guideline 4 above. It should also include a SWOT analysis of the institution focusing on their present status in the quality hierarchy, and the proposed measures to address the shortcomings. The implementation plan should contain detailed and tangible annual action plans to achieve the objectives laid out in the strategic plan.

#### **6.4.3 Accompanying documents:**

Each application should be accompanied by the following:

- (a) Details of the organization and its structure.
- (b) Financial strength of the institution, in terms of existing and expected revenue sources, existing and anticipated expenditure, and details of existing and expected corpus funds.
- (c) Details of land available for the institution.
- (d) Details of governance structure, including apex Board.
- (e) Details of a five year implementation plan to establish the foundations of a World Class Institution and consisting of the following:
  - (i) An academic plan showing the courses proposed and their schedule of offering.
  - (ii) A faculty recruitment policy and plan to meet the academic plan requirements. The faculty plan should strive to maintain the faculty-student ratio of at least 1:10. A share of the faculty should have either studied or worked in the top-tier global universities. This should also contain information about any proposal to draw faculty resources from industry, government, non-profits etc.
  - (iii) A student admissions policy and plan to select Indian and foreign students and expand the enrolment to about twenty thousand in fifteen years. The admissions policy should also contain the details of the scholarships that will be provided to ensure that meritorious selected students without adequate financial capability are not turned away.
  - (iv) A research plan indicating the research laboratories and other facilities proposed to be established. In case of humanities, social science and other interdisciplinary faculties, the research plan should indicate the broad areas and nature of field work and research sought to be done.
  - (v) A networking plan outlining the teaching and research collaborations and partnerships with private sector and foreign universities, research institutions, think-tanks, labs etc. that are proposed to be put in place.
  - (vi) An infrastructure development plan that would meet the proposed academic and admissions plans as well as all student and other amenities.
  - (vii) A financing plan, with details of the sources and estimated amounts, to meet the aforementioned plans as well as modalities for their transfer to the institution.
  - (viii) An administrative plan for getting accreditation from national and international agencies, as well as marketing and promotion.

- (ix) A governance plan that indicates the institutional structure and how it overlaps with ownership, decision-making processes, and social engagement. This governance plan should be committed to the highest global standards of transparency, accountability and efficiency.
- (x) All these plans should signal the clear commitment of the promoters to achieve the objectives and characteristics laid down in Guideline 4 of these Guidelines and should have actionable items with clear and quantified milestones and timelines.
- (xi) The objective should be that the Institution should have stabilized and established enough credibility within the five years to be on a path to become a university of global repute in the first fifteen years.
- (f) The five year implementation plan would be recast for each five year cycle, so as to achieve the objectives outlined in the 15 year strategic plan.
- (g) Plan for involving the alumni in the management of the institution and leveraging alumni financial resources.
- (h) A sustainability plan for the period when the additional public funding ceases.
- (i) Any other information or document which the advertisement/ application format specifies.

#### **6.4.4 Selection of Institutions:**

The applications shall be processed in the following manner:

- (a) After receipt, the applications that have been submitted in accordance with the format prescribed and within the due date shall be processed and forwarded by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to the Commission which shall entrust it to Empowered Expert Committee formed under UGC (World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.
- (b) The Empowered Expert Committee shall conduct its appraisal based on the document submitted by the applicant as well as any other measure of demonstrated commitment to the cause of developing a World Class Institution. This appraisal will be a table one, involving scrutiny of papers submitted, along with multiple interactions with the representatives of the sponsoring organisation and may also involve any field visit. The Empowered Experts Committee would engage with the Institutions to study their proposals, hear presentations from them and after a thorough scrutiny, rank the Institutions for their suitability for inclusion in this scheme, based on which the Empowered Experts Committee would make its recommendations.
- (d) The recommendations of the Empowered Expert Committee shall be placed before the Commission. The Commission will send the recommendation within fifteen days of the receipt of the recommendations from EEC.
- (e) Based on the recommendations of the Commission and Empowered Experts Committee, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, shall issue orders on selection of Institutions under this scheme.

#### **6.4.5 Notification:**

After issue of the Government order, the strategic and implementation plans for each selected World Class Institution would be converted into a MoU that would guide and govern the development of the Institution. The notification for World Class Institution shall be made immediately after signing the MoU by the selected Institution with the Government.

## **6.5 Monitoring and Review:**

6.5.1 The World Class Institutions shall be reviewed once in three years after their notification as such by the Ministry of Human Resource Development by the Empowered Expert Committee for adherence to their implementation plans, keeping in view their fifteen year strategic plans. The monitoring and review shall continue till the Institution gets into top hundred in a world ranking of repute for two consecutive years or till fifteen years, whichever is earlier.

6.5.2 However, the Institution shall inform the Empowered Expert Committee every year on the progress made in realising the goals laid out in the implementation and strategic plans in a manner so prescribed by the Committee.

6.5.3 The Empowered Experts Committee may also evolve such other monitoring and review systems with shorter periodicity especially in the initial years, with the objective of guiding and supervising the growth of the Institution.

6.5.4 Apart from this, the Empowered Expert Committee may require the World Class Institutions to annually self-report and publicly display certain information relating to compliance with their implementation and strategic plans.

6.5.5 The annual review exercise should be completed by May each year.

6.5.6 The Empowered Expert Committee may suggest remedial action to address deficiencies, if any. The Institution shall take steps to address them within a reasonable time period.

## **6.6 Accreditation and Ranking:**

6.6.1 The World Class Institution, within five years of the notification shall have to get accreditation in terms of Guideline 4.1 (xviii) above.

6.6.2 The World Class Institution shall continue to be ranked in the National Institutional Ranking Framework and, within five years of notification, shall get itself ranked in an International Ranking index of repute. It should from then on continue to be ranked in the National and International ranking frameworks.

## **6.7 Penalties:**

6.7.1 If the Institution is unable to meet the goals at the end of fifth and subsequent years, and there are grave enough deviations, as determined by the Empowered Expert Committee, from the implementation plan, the Empowered Expert Committee may recommend to the Ministry of Human Resource Development for taking action as given below.

6.7.2 The Ministry of Human Resource Development, on recommendation of the Empowered Expert Committee, may take any one or more of the actions given below:

- a) Removal of the World Class Institution status and reverting it back to the original status which it was before getting the World Class Institution Status.
- b) Withdrawing of any or all additional incentives given to it under paragraph 6.1.
- c) Any other penal provision available in the Statute under which the Institution was set up.

**7. Secretarial Support:**

UGC will provide all secretarial assistance to the programme, including to the Empowered Expert Committee including honorarium to be paid to the members. There shall be no provision for creation of posts.

**8. Power to remove Difficulties:**

In case there is any difficulty encountered in the course of implementation of any of the provisions, the Central Government, with intention to remove the difficulty, may give suitable clarifications, not amounting to change in the guidelines itself.

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## UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

### NEW DELHI

#### UGC (World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016

##### PREAMBLE

To create a distinct category of Deemed to be Universities, called World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities, which would be regulated differently from other Deemed to be Universities so as to evolve into Institutions of world class in a reasonable time period, the University Grants Commission, in exercise of powers conferred under Clauses [f] & [g] of Sub-Section [1] of Section 26 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956, hereby, makes the following Regulations, namely:-

##### 1.0 SHORT TITLE, APPLICATION AND COMMENCEMENT

- 1.1 These Regulations may be called the UGC (World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.
- 1.2 These Regulations shall apply to every existing or proposed Institution, not owned or controlled by Government, seeking declaration or having been declared as a World Class Institution Deemed to be University under these Regulations.
- 1.3 These Regulations shall also apply to Government owned and controlled Deemed to be Universities which have been declared World Class Institutions under UGC (Declaration of Educational Institutions as World Class Institution) Guidelines, 2016, to the extent mentioned in these Regulations.
- 1.4 The Deemed to be Universities declared as “World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities” under these Regulations or under UGC (Declaration of Educational Institutions as World Class Institutions) Guidelines, 2016 shall be regulated under these Regulations and Guidelines only and the UGC (Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016 shall not apply to such World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities.
- 1.5 These Regulations shall come into force with effect from the date of their notification in the Official Gazette.

##### 2.0 DEFINITIONS

In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 2.01 “Act” means the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 [Act 3 of 1956].
- 2.02 “Campus” means Campus of the World Class Institution Deemed to be University, wherein its major facilities including academic facilities, faculty, staff, and students are located in India.
- 2.03 “Commission” means the University Grants Commission (UGC) constituted under the Act or any other body empowered to regulate an institution deemed to be university under any law for the time being in force.

- 2.04 “Constituent Institution” means an Institution operating under the administrative, academic and financial control of the Sponsoring Organization.
- 2.05 “Empowered Experts Committee” means a Committee constituted by the Commission to exercise the powers conferred by Regulations 7 of these Regulations.
- 2.06 “Government” means the Central Government, unless the context so specifies.
- 2.07 “Guidelines” means UGC (Declaration of Government Educational Institutions as World Class Institutions) Guidelines, 2016.
- 2.08 “Institution” means an Institution for higher education engaged in teaching and research of high academic standards at the undergraduate, post-graduate or higher levels.
- 2.09 “Institution Deemed to be University” means an Institution for higher education so declared, on the recommendation of the Commission, by the Central Government under Section 3 of the Act.
- 2.10 “Ministry” means Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- 2.11 “Notification” means a notification issued by the Central Government in the Official Gazette declaring an Institution for higher education, as a World Class Institution Deemed to be University, under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956.
- 2.12 “Off-Campus Centre” means a centre of the World Class Institution Deemed to be University beyond its Campus and located elsewhere in the country.
- 2.13 “Off-Shore Campus” means a campus of the World Class Institution Deemed to be University beyond its Campus and located outside India.
- 2.14 “Processing Fee” means the charges that have to be paid by the applicant Institution to the Commission along with the application for processing such application. The Processing Fee shall be Rupees one crore for Institutions which apply for the status of World Class Institution Deemed to be University. The Commission may revise it from time to time.
- 2.15 “Professional Regulatory Council” means a body constituted under any law for the time being in force for determining or maintaining standards of quality in the relevant areas of higher education pertaining to professional education and bodies such as Medical Council of India (MCI), Dental Council of India (DCI), National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), Bar Council of India (BCI), etc.
- 2.16 “Sponsoring Organization” means a body being a charitable or a not-for-profit Society or a public Trust or a Company incorporated under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013 making an application to upgrade its existing Institution Deemed to be University into a World Class Institution Deemed to be University or to establish a new World Class Institution Deemed to be University.
- 2.17 “World Class Institution Deemed to be University” means an Institution declared as such under these Regulations and which shall be distinct from “Deemed to be

Universities” declared under UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.

### **3.0 OBJECTIVES OF A WORLD CLASS INSTITUTION DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY**

The objectives of a World Class Institution Deemed to be University shall be:

- 3.1 to provide for higher education leading to excellence and innovations in such branches of knowledge as may be deemed fit at post-graduate, graduate and research degree levels and award degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions;
- 3.2 to engage in areas of specialization to make distinctive contributions to the objectives of the university education system wherein the academic engagement is clearly distinguishable from programmes of an ordinary nature and is tuned to developing the capacity of the students and the researchers to compete in the global tertiary education marketplace through the acquisition and creation of advanced knowledge in those areas;
- 3.3 to provide for high quality teaching and research and for the advancement of knowledge and its dissemination through various research programmes undertaken in- house by substantial number of full time faculty and research scholars in diverse disciplines;
- 3.4 to pay special attention to teaching and research in unique and emerging areas of knowledge, including interdisciplinary areas, which are regarded as important for strategic needs of the country but are not being pursued by conventional or existing institutions so far, and award degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions.
- 3.5 to aim to be rated internationally for its teaching and research as a top hundred Institution in the world over time.

### **4.0 ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS OF A WORLD CLASS INSTITUTION DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY**

- 4.1 Notable features present in existing international institutions of global repute, which figure at the top in all reputed ranking frameworks, include the following:
  - i. Highly qualified faculty, with freedom to hire from across the world;
  - ii. Existence of academic, administrative and financial autonomy;
  - iii. Excellence in research;
  - iv. High Quality of teaching;
  - v. High levels of funding;
  - vi. Adequate financial assistance to meritorious students to support a need-blind admissions process;
  - vii. Selection of students through a transparent system so as to ensure intake of meritorious students;
  - viii. A significant proportion of international students;
  - ix. Autonomous governance structures;

- x. Well-equipped facilities for teaching, research, administration, and student life;
  - xi. Tangible and intangible contribution to the society; and
  - xii. Ability to leverage alumni and alternative funding sources, and the autonomy to utilize these resources
- 4.2 While an Institution declared as a World Class Institution Deemed to be University is free to choose its path to become an institution of global repute, it should compulsorily satisfy the following criteria within a reasonable time from the date of notification declaring it as a World Class Institution Deemed to be University:
- 4.2.1 It should preferably be multi-disciplinary or inter-disciplinary and have both teaching and research focus of an exceptionally high quality.
  - 4.2.2 It should offer inter-disciplinary courses, including in areas of emerging technology and interest as well as those of relevance to the development concerns of countries like India and also award degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions in such interdisciplinary areas.
  - 4.2.3 It should have a good proportion of foreign or foreign qualified faculty.
  - 4.2.4 There should be a reasonably good mix of Indian and foreign students.
  - 4.2.5 There should be a transparent merit based selection in admissions, so that the focus remains on getting meritorious students.
  - 4.2.6 The admission process should be need-blind – so that once a student gets admission purely on merit, such a meritorious student should not be turned away for lack of financial ability.
  - 4.2.7 The faculty student ratio should not be less than 1:10 after three years of declaration as a World Class Institution Deemed to be University.
  - 4.2.8 There should be laboratory facilities to undertake cutting-edge scientific research for those World Class Institution Deemed to be Universities doing scientific research. In case of humanities, social science and other interdisciplinary areas, the faculty should be engaged in research and field work in frontier areas using the latest methodologies.
  - 4.2.9 The World Class Institution Deemed to be University should strive to achieve social impact by engaging in applied research and innovation in issues of concern to developing societies.
  - 4.2.10 The World Class Institution Deemed to be University should develop teaching and research collaborations with a reasonable number of global universities figuring in the most reputed global rankings.
  - 4.2.11 The World Class Institution Deemed to be University should have a corpus of at least Rupees two hundred crore, a guaranteed pipeline for another Rupees five hundred crore, and a credible plan that additional resources are available on demand, in the name of the World Class Institution Deemed to be University, which should not be less than Rupees one thousand crore. The

source of funds should be known and should be available for scrutiny by competent authorities.

- 4.2.12 The World Class Institution Deemed to be University should be known for promoting a culture where faculty are encouraged to publish regularly in peer-reviewed journals and engage academically with the issues of concern to the society. It should have a record of research publications at the mean rate of at least one per faculty member each year in reputed peer-reviewed international journals based on publication made by top 100 global Universities in these journals.
- 4.2.13 The World Class Institution Deemed to be University should have a world-class library with subscriptions to reputed journals in the areas of courses it is offering.
- 4.2.14 The World Class Institution Deemed to be University should have student amenities comparable with that of globally reputed institutions.
- 4.2.15 The Institution should be accredited by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) or an alternative version of NAAC which conforms to UGC (World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016 or its amendments and also be assessed by atleast one reputed international accreditation agency, one whose ratings are a credible and widely accepted global benchmark. The Institution may however appeal on accreditation of NAAC or alternative version of NAAC to the Empowered Experts Committee, whose decision shall be final.
- 4.2.16 The World Class Institution Deemed to be University should have reasonably large owned campus with adequate space for expansion.
- 4.2.17 The governance structure of the World Class Institution Deemed to be University should be distinct from the governance structure of the Sponsoring Organization.
- 4.2.18 The World Class Institution Deemed to be University should achieve a student enrolment of at least twenty thousand over a period of 15 years.
- 4.2.19 The World Class Institution Deemed to be University should be considered as one of the top five hundred in any of the world renowned ranking frameworks (such as the Times Higher Education World University Rankings or QS or Shanghai's Jiao Tong University) within the first ten years of setting up, and be in the top hundred eventually over time.

4.3 The Institution giving an application to be declared as a World Class institution, should in its proposal mention the detailed and tangible action plan, milestones, and timelines by which it seeks to achieve each of the parameters laid down in Regulation 4.2, mentioning milestones to be achieved in first five years and over 15 years.

## **5.0 PROVISION REGARDING DECLARATION OF AN EXISTING GOVERNMENT OWNED AND CONTROLLED DEEMED UNIVERSITY AS A WORLD CLASS INSTITUTION DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY**

- 5.1 The UGC (Declaration of Government Educational Institutions as World Class Institutions) Guidelines 2016 would apply to existing Government owned and controlled Deemed to be University which seeks to become World Class Institution.
- 5.2 Such an Institution will have to apply to MHRD as per the provisions given in the Guidelines and the selection procedure would be as per the provisions given in the Guidelines.
- 5.3 If such Deemed to be University is declared as a World Class Institution under the Guidelines, then it would be eligible to be called “World Class Institution Deemed to be University”.
- 5.4 The funding, additional incentives, monitoring, accreditation ranking and penalty, of such Government owned and controlled Institutions shall be as provided for in the Guidelines.
- 5.5 Provisions in these Regulations regarding distance education, unitary status and Reservation would also apply to such Government owned and controlled World Class Institution Deemed to be University.

#### **6.0 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR DECLARATION OF A PRIVATELY OWNED AND CONTROLLED INSTITUTIONS TO BE CONFERRED THE STATUS OF WORLD CLASS INSTITUTIONS DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITIES**

**6.1** The proposed World Class Institution Deemed to be University should satisfy the following provisions:

- (i) It should be an Institution which has been established as a private Deemed to be University satisfying all the provisions of the UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016 or established under a law made by a Legislative Assembly of any State satisfying all conditions laid down under UGC (Establishment of and Maintenance of Standards in Private Universities) Regulations, 2003 as amended; or it should make a completely new proposal to establish a World Class Institution Deemed to be University.
- (ii) The Sponsoring Organization shall be not-for-profit society or a public trust or a company constituted under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- (iii) The Sponsoring Organization should have members whose total net worth is at least Rupees eight thousand crore, with at least one member having a net worth of Rupees two thousand crore.
- (iv) The Sponsoring Organization should have atleast some members whose credentials, as borne out by their record and to the satisfaction of the Empowered Experts Committee, indicate that they are committed to the objectives laid out in Regulation 4.
- v) The Sponsoring Organisation should have identified the first Chancellor and first Vice-Chancellor and the core team who will implement the work of setting up the World Class Institution Deemed to be University. All of them should have very high qualifications and wide experience.
- (vi) The World Class Institution Deemed to be University should have a corpus of atleast Rupees two hundred crore, a guaranteed pipeline for another Rupees

five hundred crore, and a credible plan that additional resources are available on demand, in the name of the World Class Institution Deemed to be University, which should not be less than Rupees one thousand crore. The source of funds should be known and should be available for scrutiny by competent authorities.

- (vii) A detailed fifteen year strategic vision plan and a five year rolling implementation plan, with clear annual milestones and action plans on how the new World Class Institution Deemed to be University is to be set up, with identifiable outputs and outcomes and how it plans to meet the criteria for attaining the status of a World Class Institution Deemed to be University, as laid down in Regulation 4.
- (viii) The governance structure of the World Class Institution Deemed to be University should be distinct from the governance structure of the Sponsoring Organization. The apex Governing Body of the University should consist of members whose credentials indicate that they can contribute to achievement of the objectives laid out in Regulation 4, and not be mere representatives of some section or entity. The Sponsoring Organisation and the apex Governing Body of the University should be separate body corporate, though there could be a few members from Sponsoring Organisation in the apex Governing Body to leverage the full commitment of sponsors to deliver the desired outcomes in a very short-time frame. The governance structure should demonstrate the sponsor's commitment to an arms-length relationship between the two entities.
- (ix) It should have sufficient evidence to show that it has experience in translating plans into real achievements in any field (not necessarily in the field of higher education, but preferably in it) as per its plans.
- (x) In case of institutions established under a law passed by a Legislative Assembly of a State, they should submit an undertaking from the respective State Government that, if the University is selected as a World Class Institution, then the State Government would withdraw its status as a Private University and allow it to become a World Class Institution Deemed to be University.
- (xi) In case of existing institutions, appropriate consideration will be given at the time of selection to their record of adherence to the principles mentioned in Regulation 4.

## **7.0 EMPOWERED EXPERTS COMMITTEE**

### **7.1 Appointment**

There shall be an Empowered Experts Committee (EEC) consisting of three to five eminent persons appointed for a period of three years. They will be reputed and credible individuals who have contributed to education, other public issues, economic growth and social development for a minimum period of ten years. They should have had an exceptional and untarnished record in their respective fields of excellence, and an incontrovertible and demonstrated commitment to public causes. The members of the Committee would be appointed by the Commission as advised by the Central Government, which would send the

names to the Commission after taking the approval of the Appointments Committee of Cabinet after which the Commission shall appoint them.

## **7.2. Powers and functions of the EEC**

The power and functions of the EEC shall include:

- (i) Scrutinizing and appraising the proposals submitted by existing Private Institutions desirous of being declared as a World Class Institutions Deemed to be University and from Sponsoring Organizations desirous of setting up new World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities.
- (ii) Making recommendations to the Commission for the purposes of selection of World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities, in accordance with Regulation 8.4.
- (iii) Monitoring and reviewing of implementation plans of World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities, in accordance with Regulation 13.
- (iv) Conducting review of World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities in order to ensure quality, as provided for in Regulation 11.6.2
- (v) Evolving such other monitoring and review systems with the objective of guiding and supervising the growth of World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities.
- (vi) Deciding on appeals against the decision of a domestic accreditation body on relevant accreditation of the World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities.
- (vii) Deciding on changes in transfer of sponsorship from any or all of the original sponsors of World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities.
- (viii) Making recommendations to the Commission with respect to the liquidation of the Corpus Fund of a World Class Institution Deemed to be University.
- (ix) Calling for the accounts of the World Class Institution Deemed to be Universities to verify compliance with the corpus and other additional guaranteed and committed financing requirements.
- (x) Assessing deviations from the goals of World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities and making recommendations to the Commission regarding Penalties for the same.
- (xi) Examining proposals on issues not covered in the regulations and making recommendations to the competent authorities.

## **8.0 PROCEDURE FOR DECLARATION AS A WORLD CLASS INSTITUTION DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY**

### **8.1 Call for application**

The Commission shall call for applications, to be submitted to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, both from existing Private Institutions desirous of being declared as a World Class Institution Deemed to be University and also from Sponsoring Organisations desirous of setting up new World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities. The advertisement shall be issued both in print media and also shall be put on the website of Commission and the Ministry of Human Resource Development. A minimum time of forty-five days should be provided for submitting applications from the date of the advertisement.

## **8.2 Application**

- 8.2.1 An application in specified format may be made by the Chancellor of an existing Private Institution Deemed to be University or existing Private University to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, along with a Processing Fee of Rupees one crore by way of Demand Draft drawn in favour of The Secretary, University Grants Commission.
- 8.2.2 An application in specified format may be made by the Sponsoring Organization of a proposed new World Class Institution to the Government and a Processing Fee of Rupees one crore by way of a Demand Draft drawn in favour of The Secretary, University Grants Commission.
- 8.2.3 Every application should have two parts, a fifteen year strategic vision plan as well as a five year implementation plan. The former would be the long-term strategic plan to meet the objectives and characteristics of a World Class Institution and shall also contain the quantified milestones and timelines for the institution to achieve world-class repute as laid down in Regulations 3 and 4. The implementation plan should contain detailed and tangible annual action plans to achieve the objectives laid out in the strategic plan.

## **8.3 Accompanying documents**

Each application should be accompanied by the following (as applicable as per the Category of the Institution under Regulation 1.2):

- (a) Details of members of the Sponsoring Organization.
- (b) The guiding documents of Sponsoring Organisation (such as Memorandum of Association or Trust Deed) which should clearly lay down that research & education is one of the main objectives.
- (c) Supporting documents to satisfy the eligibility condition on net worth given in Regulation 6.1 (iii).
- (d) Supporting documents to satisfy the eligibility conditions on corpus and financial resources given in the Regulation 6.1 (vi).
- (e) There should be an in-principle commitment from the concerned persons to make available adequate land for the development of the World Class Institution Deemed to be University.
- (f) Governance structure, including apex Board, and the nature of relationship between the proposed World Class Institution Deemed to be University and the Sponsoring Organization.
- (g) Name and details of the Chancellor, first Vice Chancellor and the core team who will implement the work of setting up of the proposed World Class Institution Deemed to be University.
- (h) Details of a five year implementation plan to establish the foundations of an Institution of global repute and consisting of the following:
  - (i) An academic plan showing the courses proposed and their schedule of offering.

- (ii) A faculty recruitment policy and plan meet the academic plan requirements. The faculty plan should strive to maintain the faculty-student ratio of at least 1:10. A proportion of the faculty should have either studied or worked in the top-tier global Universities. This should also contain information about any proposal to draw faculty resources from industry, government, non-profit organisations etc.
- (iii) A student admissions policy and plan to select Indian and foreign students and expand the enrolment to at least twenty thousand in fifteen years. The admissions policy should also contain the details of the scholarships that will be provided to ensure that meritorious selected students without adequate financial capability are not turned away.
- (iv) A research plan indicating the research laboratories and other facilities proposed to be established. In case of humanities, social science and other interdisciplinary faculties, the research plan should indicate the broad areas and nature of field work and research sought to be done.
- (v) A networking plan outlining the teaching and research collaborations and partnerships with private sector and foreign universities, research institutions, think-tanks, labs etc. that are proposed to be put in place.
- (vi) An infrastructure development plan that would meet the proposed academic and admissions plans as well as all student and other amenities.
- (vii) A financing plan, with details of the sources and estimated amounts, to meet the aforementioned plans as well as modalities for their transfer to the proposed World Class Institution Deemed to be University.
- (viii) An administrative plan for getting accreditation from national and international agencies, as well as marketing and promotion.
- (ix) A governance plan that indicates the proposed World Class Institution Deemed to be University's institutional structure and how it overlaps with ownership, decision-making processes and social engagement. This governance plan should be committed to the highest global standards of transparency, accountability, and efficiency.
- (x) All these plans should signal the clear commitment of the promoters to achieve the objectives and characteristics laid down in Regulation 3 & 4 and should have actionable items with clear and quantified milestones and timelines.
- (xi) The objective should be that the proposed World Class Institution Deemed to be University should stabilize and establish credibility to be on a path to become a university of global repute in the first fifteen years.
- (i) The five year implementation plan would be recast for each five year cycle, so as to achieve the objectives outlined in the fifteen year strategic plan.
- (j) A bank guarantee for Rupees ten crore, which would be forfeited if the proposed World Class Institution Deemed to be University is not set up within the given time.

- (k) Any other information or document which the advertisement/ application format specifies.

#### **8.4 Selection of World Class Institution Deemed to be Universities**

After the receipt of application, a two stage approval process would be followed – issue of Letter of Intent (LOI) initially and finally issue of order for declaration as a World Class Institution Deemed to be University. The applications shall be processed in the following manner:

- (a) The Ministry of Human Resource Development will forward all applications received by the last date to the Commission which would entrust it to the Empowered Expert Committee.
- (b) Simultaneously, the Commission shall also address the State Government, where the Institute is proposed to be located in case of a new Institution yet to be established, asking for its no objection, and if the State Government objection is not received in three weeks time, it shall be presumed that it has no objection.
- (c) The Empowered Expert Committee shall conduct its appraisal based on the documents submitted by the applicant as well as any other measure of demonstrated commitment to the cause of developing a World Class Institution. This appraisal will be a table one, involving scrutiny of papers submitted, along with multiple interactions with the representatives of the Sponsoring Organizations, and may also involve any field visit. The Empowered Experts Committee shall engage with the Institutions to study their proposals, hear presentations from them and after a thorough scrutiny, rank the Institutions for their suitability for inclusion in this scheme, based on which the Empowered Experts Committee would make its recommendations.
- (d) The recommendations of the Empowered Expert Committee shall be submitted to the Commission, which shall forward it to Ministry of Human Resource Development within fifteen days of receipts of the recommendations.
- (e) The Ministry of HRD will issue a Letter of Intent (LOI), or otherwise, within two weeks of receipt of the recommendations under Regulation 8.4(d).
- (f) The Sponsoring Organization in case of new Institution or the University, in case of existing Institution, will set up or upgrade, as the case may be, the Institution and indicate its readiness for commencing academic operations, as per the plan within three years of issue of Letter of Intent. For extension of this period for a maximum six months, it will have to apply to the Ministry of Human Resource Development specifically for the same giving the reasons for delay.
- (g) Once the indication for readiness for commencing academic operations is received in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Ministry of Human Resource Development shall send it to Commission which shall ask the Empowered Experts Committee to do an assessment of readiness in thirty days' time and send the report to the Commission. The report of Empowered Experts Committee shall be placed before the Commission, which shall forward it to the Ministry of Human Resource Development, within fifteen days.

- (h) The Institution can also get the assessment done, in parallel, if it wishes too, through a third party international agency which has accredited at least ten Institutions from the top hundred Institutions in a reputed global ranking index. In case of difference between Empowered Experts Committee assessment and the independent assessment, the Empowered Experts Committee shall re-examine the proposal and its conclusions will be final.
- (i) Based on the recommendations of the Empowered Experts Committee, as approved by the Commission, the Ministry of Human Resource Development, shall issue orders on selection of Institutions under this scheme.
- (j) The LOI issued to the Sponsoring Organisation is non transferable. The composition of Sponsoring Organisation cannot be changed. In exceptional circumstances, the EEC may allow, for the reasons to be recorded in writing, the composition of the sponsoring Organisation to be changed, subject to the condition that the new Member / Members satisfy to the EEC, the condition given in Regulation 6.1(iv).

### **8.5 SIGNING OF Memorandum of Understanding**

The strategic and implementation plans for each World Class Institution Deemed to be University would be converted into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that shall guide and govern the development of the Institution during that period. It shall be revised every five years to incorporate the new implementation plan. In case of an existing Private University under a law passed by the Legislative Assembly of a State, such a Memorandum of Understanding shall be signed only after it ceases to be a Private University.

### **8.6 NOTIFICATION**

After signing of the Memorandum of Understanding, the Government shall issue a notification declaring the Institution as a World Class Institution Deemed to be University. If it is an existing Deemed to be University, such a notification shall automatically imply that the Institution is no longer a Deemed to be University under UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016, but a World Class Institution Deemed to be University under this Regulation.

### **9.0 GOVERNANCE SYSTEM**

- 9.1 The Governance structure of the World Class Institution Deemed to be University should be distinct from the governance structure of the Sponsoring Organization. The apex governing body of the World Class Institution Deemed to be University should consist of members whose credentials indicate that they can contribute to achievement of the objectives laid out in Regulation 4, and not be mere representatives of some entity. The Sponsoring Organisation and the apex Governing Body of the University should be separate body corporate, though there could be a few members from Sponsoring Organisation in the apex Governing Body to leverage the full commitment of sponsors to deliver the desired outcomes in a very short-time frame. The governance structure should ensure an arms-length relationship between the two entities.

### **10.0 FUNDING**

There shall be no funding by the Central Government either to existing Private Institutions which have been declared as World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities or to the newly established private World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities under this scheme. However, this would not exclude them for accessing Government funds allocated for specific studies/projects which they may execute.

## **11.0 ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES**

The World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities selected in the aforesaid manner shall have additional incentives. These incentives would be available to all World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities under these Regulations. As such, consistent with the national policy objective of creating an enabling regulatory architecture for these World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities, the World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities shall, upon declaration as World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities, be governed by the provisions of this Regulation. In particular, such World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities shall be exempt from all UGC Regulations and other guidelines, notifications and orders of the Commission on matters pertaining to the subject areas laid down in Regulation 11.1 to 11.6 of these Regulations.

### **11.1 Admission and Fees Structure:**

- 11.1.1 While domestic students shall have to be selected through a transparent merit based system (which can be designed by the World Class Institution Deemed to be University itself), the World Class Institution Deemed to be University would be free to admit foreign students on merit as per its internal policies, subject to a maximum of additional thirty percent of the strength of admitted domestic students.
- 11.1.2 The World Class Institution Deemed to be University would be free to fix fees, for both domestic and foreign students as per its internal policies, and would be exempted from any fee regulations which may be there in force. However, fee should be fixed in a transparent and upfront manner without any hidden charges to be taken from students. In addition, charging of capitation fee is prohibited and any incident of such charging shall be treated as a serious violation necessitating provisions of penalty as per the law.
- 11.1.3 While fees can be charged from foreign students without restriction, the freedom to determine the domestic student fees shall be subject to the condition that no student who gains admission on merit should be turned away for lack of financing, for which the World Class Institution Deemed to be University shall create a credible and robust programme of financial assistance in the form of scholarships and loans to ensure that such students can pursue higher studies without any financial difficulty.
- 11.1.4 Since no existing fee regulation guidelines are to be applicable to such World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities, they will have to set up the institution of Ombudsman to cater to student grievances and allegations of unfair practice, if any. The contact details of the Ombudsman shall be prominently displayed by the World Class Institution Deemed to be University on its website, prospectus and at the premises.

## **11.2 Flexibility in course structure**

- 11.2.1 The Institution shall have the freedom to offer courses within a programme as well as to offer degree in newer areas, after approval of its Governing Council and subject to broadly conforming to minimum prevailing standards, without consulting the Commission but with intimation to it.
- 11.2.2 The World Class Institution Deemed to be University shall also have flexibility of course structure in terms of credit hours and number of years to take a degree, after approval of its Governing Council and subject to broadly conforming to minimum prevailing standards.
- 11.2.3 The World Class Institution Deemed to be University shall have complete flexibility in fixing of curriculum and syllabus, with no UGC mandated curriculum structure.
- 11.2.4 The World Class Institution Deemed to be University shall have the freedom to offer online courses as part of its programmes (subject to a limit of thirty percent of any programme). However, this thirty percent restriction would not preclude the World Class Institution Deemed to be University from offering certificate courses entirely through online mode.

## **11.3 Recruitment of faculty:**

- 11.3.1 The World Class Institution Deemed to be University may recruit faculty from India and abroad. The approach should be to attract the most talented people, no matter where they come from, who are open to new ideas and approaches.
- 11.3.2 The World Class Institution Deemed to be University shall have complete autonomy in the appointment of faculty, promotions etc including the autonomy to offer them emoluments and perks commensurate with their standing as it deems fit.
- 11.3.3 The World Class Institution Deemed to be University is free to adopt any career progression scheme for its faculty and the UGC Career Advancement Scheme and associated Regulations pertaining to the same shall not be automatically applicable in such World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities.
- 11.3.4 The World Class Institution Deemed to be University may hire personnel from industry, etc. as faculty, who, while being experts in their areas, may not have the requisite higher academic qualifications.

## **11.4 Academic collaborations:**

- 11.4.1 Academic collaborations with foreign higher educational institutions shall be exempt from approvals by the Government or the Commission, except with Institutions from negative list of countries determined by the Ministry of External Affairs or the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- 11.4.2 The World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities shall be free to enter into academic collaborations with Institutions within the country.

## **11.5 Financial Autonomy:**

- 11.5.1 The World Class Institution Deemed to be University shall have complete financial autonomy to spend the resources raised and allocated.

## **11.6 Inspection:**

11.6.1 The existing UGC Regulations relating to inspection shall not apply to these World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities.

11.6.2 However, the World Class Institution Deemed to be University shall work out the details of a self-disclosure-cum-review mechanism to ensure quality, with review being done by the Empowered Expert Committee. The Committee may, if it deems necessary, take assistance of teams consisting of experts from internationally ranked Institutions and from Institutions of National Importance.

## **12.0 GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL SYSTEM**

The World Class Institution Deemed to be University shall appoint an Ombudsman to deal with grievances of students and faculty and allegations of unfair practice. The contact details of the Ombudsman shall be displayed prominently in the campus, on the homepage of the World Class Institution Deemed to be University's website and in the prospectus.

## **13.0 MONITORING AND REVIEW**

13.1 The World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities shall be reviewed once in three years after their notification as such by the Ministry of Human Resource Development by the Empowered Expert Committee for adherence to their implementation plans, keeping in view their fifteen year strategic plans. The monitoring and review shall continue till the World Class Institution Deemed to be University gets into top one hundred in a world ranking of repute for two consecutive years or till fifteen years, whichever is earlier.

13.2 However, the Institutions shall inform the Empowered Experts Committee every year on the progress made in realizing the goals laid out in the implementation and strategic plans, in a manner so prescribed by the Committee.

13.3 The Empowered Experts Committee may also evolve such other monitoring and review systems, especially in the initial years, with the objective of guiding and supervising the growth of the World Class Institution Deemed to be University.

13.4 Apart from this, the Empowered Experts Committee may require the Institutions to annually self-report and publicly display certain information relating to compliance with their implementation and strategic plans,

13.5 The annual review exercise should be completed by May each year.

13.6 The Committee may suggest remedial action to address deficiencies, if any. The World Class Institution Deemed to be University shall take steps to address them within a reasonable time period.

## **14.0 ACCREDITATION and RANKING**

14.1 The World Class Institution Deemed to be University, within five years of its notification will have to get accreditation as per Regulation 4.2.15.

14.2 The World Class Institution Deemed to be University, within five years of its notification declaring it as a World Class Institution Deemed to be University, shall get itself ranked in the National Institutional Ranking Framework and in an International Ranking index of repute. An existing Institution which has been declared World Class Institution Deemed to be University should start getting ranked from the year when it gets a Letter of Intent. All Institutions should then continue to get themselves ranked in the National and International ranking frameworks.

## **15.0 RESERVATION POLICY**

The World Class Public Institutions shall implement the reservation policy in admissions and recruitment in accordance with any Act of Parliament for the time being in force.

## **16.0 INSTITUTION TO BE UNITARY**

The World Class Institution Deemed to be University shall be a unitary Institution Deemed to be University and shall not affiliate any other Institution.

## **17.0 USE OF THE WORD 'UNIVERSITY'**

The Institution shall not use the word 'University' suffixed to its name but may mention the words "World Class Institution Deemed to be University" within parenthesis suffixed thereto.

## **18.0 PROHIBITION OF USE OF CERTAIN WORDS IN NOMENCLATURE**

World Class Institution Deemed to be University shall not be permitted to use the words, "Indian" or "National Institute" in their respective names unless they have been established by the Central Government or State Government.

## **19.0 DISTANCE EDUCATION**

The World Class Institution Deemed to be University may offer courses under distance mode, without any approvals, in accordance with the minimum standards laid down by the Commission. This provision shall also apply to Government owned and controlled Deemed to be Universities which have been declared World Class Institutions under UGC (Declaration of Educational Institutions as World Class Institutions) Guidelines, 2016.

## **20.0 CORPUS FUND**

20.1 In the case of World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities not owned or controlled by the Government, a Corpus Fund of Rupees two hundred crores shall be created and maintained permanently in the name of the World Class Institution Deemed to be University by way of irrevocable Government Securities or other forms approved by the Commission.

20.2 The Corpus Fund shall not be liquidated without prior permission of the Empowered Experts Committee.

20.3 The interest accrued on the Corpus Fund may be used only for the purpose of development of the World Class Institution Deemed to be University.

20.4 The Empowered Experts Committee may call for the accounts of the World Class Institution Deemed to be University to verify compliance with the corpus and other additional guaranteed and committed financing requirements. In the event of withdrawal of the declaration of 'World Class Institution Deemed to be University' status the Corpus Fund shall stand forfeited to the Commission for meeting the liabilities, if any (including any penalty), and the balance would be returned after meeting the liabilities within one year.

## **21.0 PENALTIES**

21.1 If the World Class Institution Deemed to be University is unable to meet the goals at the end of the fifth and subsequent years and there are grave deviations, as

determined by the Empowered Expert Committee, from the implementation plan, the Empowered Experts Committee may make appropriate recommendations to the UGC which shall forward it to the Ministry of Human Resource Development to take action under these Regulations.

21.2 The Ministry of Human Resource Development, on recommendation of the Empowered Experts Committee as forwarded by the UGC, may take any one or more of the actions given below:

- a) Withdrawing of any or all additional incentives given to it under these Regulations.
- b) Removal of the World Class Institution status and replacing it by ordinary Deemed to be University status, wherein it shall be deemed to be set up under UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016.
- c) Removal of World Class Institution Deemed to be University status and asking it to get affiliated to any existing State University.
- d) Stopping of admissions for specified number of years.

## 22. AUDIT

The World Class Institution Deemed to be University shall be audited every year by a Chartered Accountant and the audit report shall be sent to Commission within nine months of the completion of the financial year.

For the purposes of this Regulation, "Chartered Accountant" shall have the same meaning as contained in the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.

## 23. MISCELLANEOUS:

- 23.1 In case there is any difficulty encountered in the course of implementation of any of the provisions, the Government, with intention to remove the difficulty, may give suitable clarifications, not amounting to change in Regulation itself.
- 23.2 The Empowered Experts Committee shall examine proposals on issues not covered in the Regulations and make recommendations to the Competent Authorities.

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**Policy on Establishment of World Class Institutions** : Pages 2 to 3.

**UGC (Declaration of Government Educational Institutions as World Class Institutions) Guidelines, 2016:** Pages 4 to 12.

**UGC (World Class Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2016:** Pages 13 to 29.